

TRADES IN MEXICO.

SINGULAR CRAFTS PURSUED IN THE STREETS.

Beautiful Pottery and Jewellers' Fine Work—Cheapness of Gold—Baby Making—A Mexican Weaver—Trade Secrets.

Writing from Guadalajara, Mexico, Fannie B. Ward says in the *Troy Times*: Various trades are carried on in Guadalajara with great success, particularly silversmithing, blacksmithing and carpentering. Among the manufacturers those of iron, steel, glass and a peculiar kind of pottery are celebrated all over the republic. Indeed, the fame of "Guadalajara pottery" is world wide. The queerest designs of carafes, odd water jugs with two spouts or one, jars, mugs, pitchers with long noses and stubby handles, etc., made of baked clay, highly glazed with black, blue, gray or dark green ground, painted with impossible flowers or figures, which according to Scripture it would be no sin to worship, all quaint enough to rank high in any collection of ceramics. When new this was imparted to the water it contains a strange flavor, which is greatly relished by Mexicans, but as much disliked by most other people.

The gayest of serapes and the finest of rebosos are also manufactured hereabout; also paper and printed calico. The filigree work of the Guadalajara jewellers is simply wonderful, and may be seen any day in every stage of progress, because in all tropical countries, as in the far East, the majority of the women follow their avocations in the open air. The gold and silversmiths try their intricate trade outside their little shops, on the street corners, wherever, undisturbed by the dust and confusion around them. They make exquisite bits of ornamentation of the gold known in commerce as *lancetas*, meaning the dark, rich, reddish-yellow variety. These works are much more popular in Europe than on this continent, and across the Atlantic no collection of jewels or ornaments is considered complete without a set of Mexican filigree work. It is not at all like the Florentine or Venetian, and is made after an entirely different plan. The threads of precious metal are beaten to infinitesimal fineness, twelve wires of gold twisted together making a thread no thicker than No. 24 spool cotton. The wires are all carefully traced on sketches or patterns, and the delicate manner in which each wire is soldered to the other is one of the marvels of human skill. From earliest days the Mexicans have been adepts in this kind of workmanship, but so behind the times are latter-day artificers that in improvident Mexico human labor counts for next to nothing, and a skilled workman will toil for weeks over a delicate toy which sells for a few shillings.

The precious metal being here so plentiful, because of the remarkable richness of the surrounding sierras, ornaments of pure gold and silver are common among the poorest people—from great hoops in their ears to cigarette cases in their pockets. At every street corner are little stands where genuine treasures, in the way of antique jewelry or exquisite specimens of filigree work, may be bought for a song. There are bracelets, necklaces, combs, earrings, crucifixes; in short, every imaginable device—some set with the beautiful opals of Querclara, or pearls from the California gulf; or topaz, amethyst, garnets or "cats-eyes" from other portions of Mexico.

The Guadalajara wood-carvers are also famed for the beauty of their workmanship. In a hundred little shops we find swarthy workmen patiently carving bits of wood into wonderful rosaries, every bead of which shows a miniature picture of some scriptural scene—heads which are really perfect portraits for the tips of canoes and umbrellas, rings, boxes, cigarette cases, buttons, etc. The carvers, who have over 200 varieties of rich native wood to choose from, produce some wonderful sticks; and many of the most expensive umbrellas and parasols handles known to commerce are wrought by these unknown and poorly paid workmen.

One has a chance to study a good many quaint trades in this land of "The Fair Land," jealously guarded by the Mexicans, having been handed down through successive generations from Indian ancestors, who practiced them centuries before the coming of Cortez. Among the most curious is the pottery making, in which the native "throwers," or molders, by a mere twist of the hand, a turn of the wrist, or a twist of the fingers, form the yielding clay into the oddest shapes.

Still more interesting is the craft of making perfectly life-like miniature figures out of rags—an art which has existed in Mexico at least five hundred years. Dickens's Jenny Wren, the dolls' dressmaker, finds many a prototype in Guadalajara, for hundreds of native women spend their lives in making clothes for these rag figures, in the most accurate and particular manner possible. The rag-figure maker is an artist in his way, and produces perfect likenesses of men, women and children, representing all callings and classes in Mexico—from ragged leprosy to senators of fashion, scandal-shed water-carriers and poultry vendors, elegantly attired cavaliers or gentlemen of leisure, nuns, priests and servants.

Like the occidental nations, Mexico has a manufacture of textile fabrics peculiarly its own. The Mexican weaver of silk and cocoa goods uses a loom resembling nothing ever seen north of the Rio Grande—a primitive and clumsy affair, yet which turns out good work. As no village, however poor, is without its rebozo and serape manufacturer, one may see scores of them in operation in almost any street of Guadalajara.

One has only a chance to study the ingenuity of the wax workers, who are eternally fashioning fruits and flowers, "large as life and twice as natural," as Mrs. Partington observed of the stuffed crocodile. Ask one of these dark-skinned workmen for an apple or an orange, and with incredible rapidity he will manufacture one which would tempt the gods to be deceived by its exact shape and delicate fruity bloom. It is merely a layer of wax over form, so deftly manipulated and the colors so accurately applied that one is lost in astonishment.

Mexican gold and silver embroidery, thread lace, "drawn" work and intricate needle-work also command universal admiration. But the richest and most curious of all is the *plumaje*, or feather work, which is made only in Mexico, and nowhere better than in Guadalajara, the secret of which is known only to certain families in which it has been preserved for centuries. In this city, there are elegant mansions decorated something as were Montezuma's palaces with feather-work the most elaborate, which is neither tapestry nor applique, nor is it woven into or sewn upon the foundation. There are magnificent curtains also, besides

altar cloths, scarfs, hangings and other decorations, made of some heavy material, ornamented in an indescribably brilliant manner by leaves and foliage of embroidery, in which birds stand out in bold relief, because the latter are made of the natural plumage of the birds themselves. By some mysterious process, known only to the artists, these real feathers are wrought upon the stuffed surface so naturally that the bird from which the plumage comes is perfectly reproduced.

The same art is also exercised upon cards, large and small, scarf-pins, hair ornaments, etc., and the tiniest humming birds to the tallest of the stork family are accurately represented.

Language of Finger-Nails.

He who keeps his nails well rounded at the tips is a proud man. Nails which remain long after being cut level with the finger ends are a sign of generosity. The owner of very round and smooth nails is of a peaceable and conciliatory disposition.

He who keeps his nails somewhat long, round and tipped with black is a romantic poet.

He who has white spots on his nails is fond of the society of ladies, but is fickle in his attachments.

If you come across a man with long and pointed nails you may take it that he is either a player of the guitar, a tailor, or an attorney.

Transparent nails with light red, mark a cheerful, gentle and amiable disposition. Lovers with transparent nails usually carry their passion to the verge of madness.

He who has the nail of his right thumb slightly notched is a regular glutton, even nibbling at himself, as when not having eatables at hand, he falls to biting into his own finger-nails.

He who keeps his nails irregularly cut is hasty and determined. Men who have not the patience to cut their nails properly generally come to grief; most of them commit suicide or get married.

He whose nails are detached from the finger at the further extremities and when cut showing a larger proportion of the finger than usual, ought never to get married, as it would be a wonder if he were master in his own house, for short nails betoken patience, good nature and, above all, resignation under severe trials. —Chicago News.

Beautiful Work in Ivory.

With improved methods of carving came a new general demand for small ivory figures which could be used as ornaments, and as a result the subjects became more varied and less conventional. We now have beautiful toilet articles with carvings of flowers and arabesque baskets of ivory worthy to inclose gems; little statues of genre designs; birds and grayhounds and miniature figures of humanity. Striking groups and scenes from life are carved out of the white substance, and the whole inlaid with differently colored ivory, which gives the picture a realistic and beautiful appearance.

The more delicate of the carvings have to be executed by a trained hand and an artistic eye. Many women are employed in this work, especially in the ivory manufactories of Europe, where they are paid good wages for their labor. The rougher work, such as making billiard balls, rings for harness and ivory handles, is done entirely by machinery, but since the demand for fine household ornaments has grown so steadily, a large number of gifted women have been given employment in the manufactories to do the fine polishing and designing. The ivory used is taken, not only from Africa and Asia and the fossil mammoth of Siberia, but also from the horns of the hippopotamus, the tusks of the walrus and the sword of the narwhal.

The grain of the several kinds differs very materially, and in proportion to the delicateness of the lines is the price paid for it. The elephant tusk represents the finest specimens of ivory. When the tusks are brought into the workshop they are cut into shapes necessary for carving by machinery. The objects are designed beforehand and a suitable piece is cut out from the sheet at one turn of the wheel. These pieces are then taken by the artists, who design and polish them until fashioned ready for the store. The carvers sit at long desks facing windows of light, and they use salt and water beneath the touch of their fine tools. The polishing is accomplished upon wheels or "buffs" covered with Canton flannel, and there are vats of colored liquid for staining tints. When the carving is finished it represents exquisite work.—Mail and Express.

Labor in Japan.

The year before last, says a writer in the *Japan Mail*, I had to employ two plasterers to repair a place in the wall of a house where a piece of plaster of about two feet square had fallen out. The two artists turned up at 10 A. M., and, sitting down upon a couple of empty wine cases, lit their pipes. At about 10:30 A. M., one approached the damaged place within a yard, took a mental photograph of it, and sat down again. At 11 A. M. a mutual friend appeared, who was warmly welcomed, and, after smoking a pipe or two, amused them by standing upon his head, and by that time they had got very hungry, and made a pause of two hours foriffin. Pipes again. Then the one who had carefully sounded the wall knocked another piece of plaster down. Pipes again. By 3 P. M. they had made the hole about three times its original size, and were so thoroughly exhausted that they left off. Next day a stray drop of water—wherever it may have come from—lighted on one fellow's nose, and made them conclude it was going to rain, so that no work could be done in the afternoon. Well, to cut matters short, those two square feet of plaster, that is river mud, cost me \$3 though wages are but forty-five cents per day.

A Clergyman's Ruse.

A good, true story, now current in New York, tells how a young assistant minister of a Fifth avenue church has made his way rapidly into great social favor. He did it by making the influential ladies of his congregation believe that they were responsible for the best points in the sermons. In making a pastoral call, and when the conversation turned on religious topics, he would pick out some utterance of his hostess, declare it admirable, and promise to use on the next Sunday. On that occasion she would proudly hear him introduce an embellished form of the conceit with such an introduction as, "One of the brightest minds I know," or, "From a beautiful source comes the idea." Could she thereafter fail to pet him? He is the lion of a hundred parlors.—Philadelphia Times.

The pressure of fourteen tons per square inch has been found to render soft wood suitable as a substitute for hard wood, as for making loom shuttles.

FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Snails, shut in a box with air, close themselves in their shells, and live in a dormant state for months, or years, and revive in water at seventy-two degrees.

The national dish of the ancient Egyptians was the goose, and they had thirty kinds of bread. The common drink was beer, and the women got tipsy on it.

A Pennsylvania physician says that he has patients who will relish broth made from the English sparrow after they have refused to take all other nourishment.

Perhaps the smallest man of his age now living is James Hoag, of Cedar Springs, Mich. He was born in 1815, and was one of the smallest babies known, weighing only nine ounces. He now weighs but seventy-six pounds, and is only forty-five inches in height.

The resolution declaring the independence of the colonies was passed July 2, 1776, and it has been thought that this should be the date of the first national anniversary; but the great declaration, asserting the reasons for that resolution and the principles upon which the action was founded, was promulgated on July 4.

On a "division of the house," which is a method of voting in the English Parliament, the members of the contending parties file into the lobby, registering their vote as they pass out. When the House is cleared it shows that all have voted, and then the members return to their seats and await the announcement of the result.

The Congo method of execution is most revolting. Among certain tribes the person to be executed is taken out into the market-place, where he is buried to his neck in the earth. His brains are then dashed out, and a cord fastened around his neck to which is attached a stick. This is driven perpendicularly into the body and both left there to decay.

An old German of Salem, Ill., well educated and perfectly sane on all subjects but one, thinks that he is continually surrounded by witches, and wears a belt filled with chunks of lead to prevent them from flying away with him. He also weighs his ankles to such an extent that it is difficult for him to walk. His house is crowded with bottled toads, lizards and other curious objects, which he keeps to protect him from witches.

One of the largest men of modern times was Samuel Muffitt, who died in England a few weeks ago. He was six feet one inch high and weighed 600 pounds. The girth of his waist was nearly ten feet, and it took a tape-line twenty inches long to encompass the calf of his leg. No hearse could be found large enough to carry his body, and it took twenty men to lift the coffin through the window to an open wagon. He was a native of Wimbolton, Cambridgeshire, and was fifty-five years old.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

The good we have received from a man should make us bear with the ill he does us.

It is a strange desire to seek power over others, and lose power over a man's self.

Bashfulness has as little in common with modesty as impudence has with courage.

Anxiety is the poison of life, the sure destroyer of health; parent of many sins, and of more miseries.

In all negotiations of difficulty, a man may not look to sow and reap at once, but must prepare business, and so ripen it by degrees.

Real merit of any kind cannot long be concealed; it will be discovered, and nothing can depreciate it but a man's exhibiting it himself. It may not always be rewarded as it ought; but it will always be known.

The weak man is he who forms many purposes and drops one after another in the face of difficulties. The strong is he who forms a few purposes, but, in the face of all opposition carries each one through to successful issues.

Our healing is not in the storm or in the whirlwind, it is not in monarchies, or aristocracies, or democracies, but will be the still, small voice that speaks to the conscience and the heart, prompting us to a wider and wiser humanity.

Make thy recreation servant to thy business, lest thou become a slave to thy recreation. When thou goest up into the mountain, leave this servant in the valley; when thou goest to the city, leave him in the suburbs, and remember the servant must not be greater than the master.

It is not necessary or right that all men should enjoy art, nature or music to make them useful or honorable. When we go a pleasuring at least let us be honest, and not pretend to a liking for white bait, when we hunger for a good meal of wholesome coarse bread and salt herring.

The United States colleges contain 18,000 women students.

A Great English Remedy.

A famous physician, many years ago, with the aid of an English toad, formulated a remedy which effected remarkable cures of liver diseases, bile, indigestion, etc., and from a small beginning "ere arose a large demand and sale for it." The name of the remedy is Cockle's Anti-Bilious Pills. It has become world-wide, and is the most important meal of the diet and sufficient importance is not attached to it in the majority of households. After the long fast enforced between supper or late dinner and 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning a person in good health should feel hungry, and it is at this hour of the day that the heartiest meal may be eaten with the least probability of bad results. The man who starts out in the morning after eating a hearty breakfast will seldom, unless suffering from chronic indigestion, experience any of the discomforts which might follow a similar meal at any other time of day. The chances are he will also enjoy a happy frame of mind all day; whatever may be his custom he will find himself with an excellent appetite. Eating creates an appetite. The very opposite results will follow the other cause in this matter, and the man who has not had a good breakfast will not enjoy a good dinner. I have treated a good many cases of habitual drunkenness, and in a great many of them I have found that the evil practice of tipping was begun to satisfy a gnawing, faint sensation in the stomach in the morning, which was nothing more or less than disguised hunger.

What Killed Croquet.

Many of us remember that fifteen or twenty years ago croquet was a pleasant, if not very exciting, pastime for a summer afternoon; but when enthusiastic players discovered that the way to win the game was not to make the running of your own horse the first object, but rather aim at preventing your opponent from running his, by leaving his ball behind a peg or wire; and when they developed systematic methods of carrying out these tactics, the game was at once changed, for all ordinary people, into as disagreeable a form of amusement as ever was devised; and croquet died of scientific play, and lawn tennis reigned in its stead.—Temple Bar.

A Famous Detective.

James Jackson, the famous State detective, resides in Sing Sing, and is generally in attendance at the prison. His duties are to examine carefully the face of every convict as he enters, and to scrutinize every visitor in order to prevent any disguised convict from seeing his pals.

Occasionally he has to make long journeys in pursuit of runaway prisoners or to identify criminals convicted in other States. He never makes a mistake; if once he looks a man in the eye he will know him under any disguise, as he tells his man by the look of his eyes. Once an escaped convict had his nose pared down one-third, but Jackson detected him at once, notwithstanding this remarkable change of feature. Mr. Jackson is about 5 feet 8 inches in height, about 35 years old, of a light and sinewy build, with black hair and piercing black eyes, and is altogether remarkably handsome. He knows about 10,000 criminals, and it is simply wonderful that he can distinguish the features of every one. On his long journeys he eats very moderately and always takes one Brandy pill at night. When much fatigued by the jolting of the cars on his tireless trips he uses two Alcock's Porous Plasters on the small of the back, which give him renewed vigor and quickly relieve him of all weariness. These are the only two remedies he uses, and he attributes his vigor and remarkable health to Alcock's Porous Plasters and Brandreth's Pills.—Sing Sing, N. Y., Daily Register.

Things Seen in Alaska.

Nowhere in my home travels, from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico, from Washington to Sitka, writes Governor Swineford, have I seen a more luxuriant vegetation than here in Southern Alaska. I find the hardier vegetables all growing to maturity and enormous size, with turnips weighing ten pounds, cabbages twenty-seven pounds, and as fine potatoes as can be found in all of the Eastern markets I found growing in Wrangell, Juneau and here in Sitka. While timothy and redtop grow to a height of from five to seven feet, and in this vicinity all the hay was cured during the past summer that will be required during the winter, and I am satisfied from personal observation that hundreds of tons more could be raised here. The few cattle I have seen are sleek and in the best possible condition, and I unhesitatingly give it as my opinion that the country is well enough adapted to grazing purposes to render wholly unnecessary the importation of beef, even when the population of the Territory shall have grown far beyond the number requisite to its admission as a State.

On the other hand, while I am not prepared to speak adversely on the section known as Southwestern Alaska, I may be permitted to say that the reports I get from the most trustworthy sources indicate the existence of large areas of valuable grazing lands on the Aleutian Islands and some parts of the peninsula, where the harder breeds of cattle do not require to be fed in any season of the year. If this be true the prediction which has been made that Alaska will eventually furnish the Pacific coast with its beef may yet be verified.

And this is true of a country embracing more square miles than the six New England States and New York.

How Jay Gould Travels.

Mr. Gould travels like a rocket while inspecting his roads. In this way he gets a certain amount of exercise, for, as travelers know, a heavy train drawn at the rate of fifty miles an hour will make little fuss in comparison with the antics of a single car tacked to an engine making the same rate. Mr. Gould often travels in the Convoys at a fifty-mile gait, and during such a trip he has been known to change seats—from one side of the car to the other—of his own volition, but without changing countenance. So long as Superintendent Kerrigan keeps his hands off the bell rope Mr. Gould makes no remonstrance, but accepts his shaking without a grumble. He changed seats had been recommended by the engineers on one of his recent trips without knowing it. The engineer had been running slowly, for reasons of his own, in spite of numerous pulls at the bell cord. When, however, he discovered that dinner was under way he pulled the throttle open, and the locomotive darted ahead suddenly as if going through a flash. At the next station the engineer was promoted to a freight train.—New York Times.

"I Love Her Better than Life."

Well, then, why don't you do something to get her back to her check and the light to her eyes? Don't you see she is suffering from nervous debility, the result of female weakness? A bottle of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" will brighten those pale cheeks and send new life through that wasting form. If you love her, take heed.

Less than 20,000 of the 125,000,000 native women of India can read.

If you have catarrh, use the surest remedy—Dr. Sage's.

The United States colleges contain 18,000 women students.

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Money Makers.

Don't let golden opportunities pass unimproved: there are times in the lives of men when more money can be made rapidly and easily than at other times. Don't miss it. Write Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, who will send you, free, full particulars about work that you can do and live at home, wherever you are located. Those who at least from \$25 to \$25 daily. Some have made over \$50 in a single day. All is new. You are wanted. No Capital not required. Either sex; all ages.

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Money Makers.

It is stated that there has been no instance of the failure of oil to still troubled waters when the oil used was vegetable or fish oil.

A leading real estate agent private and banker, Mr. Ira Brown, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I feel it my duty to say of St. Jacobs Oil that I have used it for many months with rheumatism. I tried it, was cured, and have never been troubled since."

A CHINA MAN has discovered that cast off horse shoes make good cutting steel. The wrought iron of the shoes having been constantly hammered on the roads acquires hardness, and the animal heat from the hoofs has something to do with it.

Mr. T. J. Murphy, 61 DeWitt Place, Brooklyn, N. Y., says: "I was afflicted with sciatic rheumatism and found St. Jacobs Oil very efficacious."

THE TONNAGE of American vessels in the foreign trade has fallen from 2,608,864 tons in 1881 to 1,088,041, and the percentage of American vessels entering our ports from 65.35 per cent. in 1881 to 22.35.

How Pale You Are!

Is frequently the exclamation of one lady to another. The fact is not a pleasant one to mention, but the act may be a kindly one, for it sets the one addressed to thinking, and leads her to seek a reason therefor. Pallor is almost always attendant upon the first stages of consumption, and in nine years old and has enjoyed good health since we began giving it to him."—B. F. GORVY, Rochester, N. H.

THE DISTANCE from New York to San Francisco by Cape Horn is 19,000 miles; distance by the Panama canal, 4,300.

In the Spring

Nearly everybody needs a good medicine. The impurities which have accumulated in the blood during the cold months must be expelled, or when the mild days come, and the effect of tracing air is lost, the body is liable to be overcome by debility or some other ailment. The remarkable success achieved by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and the many words of praise it has received, make it worthy your confidence.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

"We have used Hood's Sarsaparilla for several years, and are proud to recommend it as an excellent purifying medicine or to be used at all times as a blood purifier. For children as well as grown people we consider it the best. We send one bottle for our boy to take in the spring. He is nine years old and has enjoyed good health since we began giving it to him."—B. F. GORVY, Rochester, N. H.

That Tired Feeling

"I have been troubled with dyspepsia. I had but little appetite, and in an hour after eating I would experience a faintness or tired, all gone feeling, as if I had not eaten anything. Hood's Sarsaparilla gave me an appetite, and my food relished and satisfied me. I had previously expected to be relieved, but this failed, tired, all gone feeling."—G. A. PARK, Watertown, Mass.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. At \$1 per bottle. Prepared only by C. L. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

COCKLE'S ANTI-BILIOUS PILLS.

FOR LIVER, BILE, INDIGESTION, ETC. Free from Opium. Contains only Pure Vegetable Ingredients. Agent: C. A. CRITTENDON, New York.

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Joe Howard's "Life of Beecher."

Joseph Howard, Jr., a well-known journalist and intimate friend of Beecher for the past fifty years, is writing a life of the great pastor and orator, which will be a standard work, and one of peculiar interest and value. It is to be brought out by Hubbard Bros. by subscription, will be finely illustrated and should have an enormous sale.

"Hood's Sarsaparilla" mends anything Broken. Chills, Rheumatism, Eruptions, Scalds, Glands, and all other ailments, and cures them. It is sold by all druggists at 25c. per bottle.